CANADIAN
MOVING PICTURE
DIGEST

Vol. 22, No. 31 TORONTO 2, CANADA November 29th, 1930

ONE THING IS SURE!

At this time when box-offices are recording the achievements of the Marie Dressler-Wallace Beery picture "Min and Bill," the thrilling business done by "War Nurse," and when showmen are looking ahead to Joan Crawford in "Paid" and Greta Garbo in "Inspiration," it again becomes evident that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, year in and year out, comes through with unfailing dependability.

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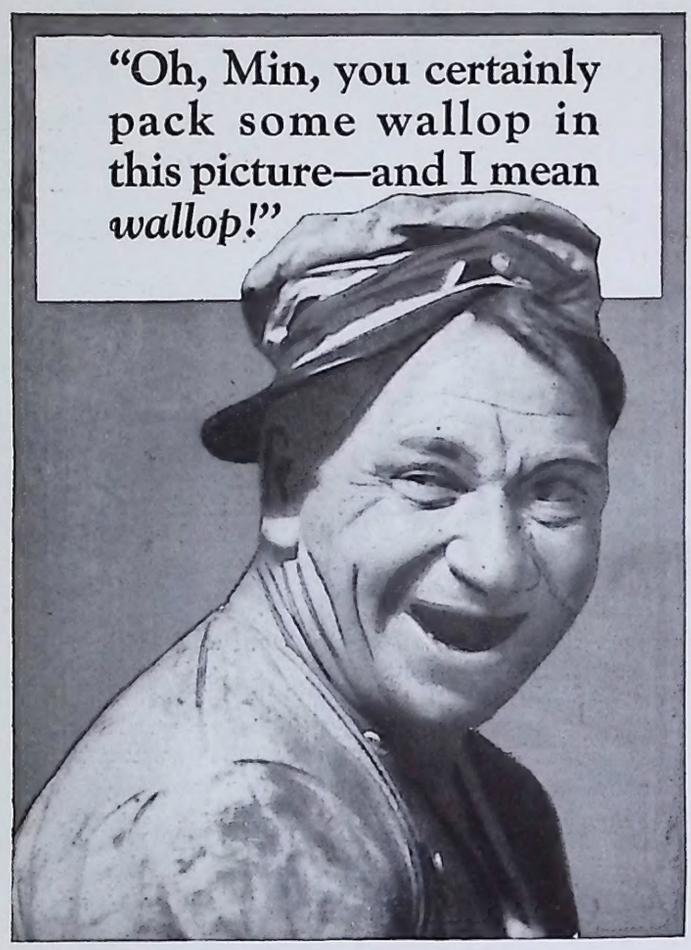
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

BEATS "BIG HOUSE" RECORDS IN WARFIELD, FRISCO, EXTENDED RUN!

Biggest since "Broadway Melody" at the Columbia Theatre, Washington. And it's just starting!



Imagine them both TOGETHER!

MARIE DRESSLER

Better than she was in "Caught Short," "Anna Christie," "Let Us Be Gay" all put together!

WALLACE BEERY

The fans are waiting for another role like "Butch" of "Big House." Here it is!

MIN AND BILL

A flock of laughs! A pack of heart-throbs! A pictureful of drama—suggested by Lorna Moon's "The Dark Star." Directed by George Hill., He made "The Big House."

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S Extended Run Hit!

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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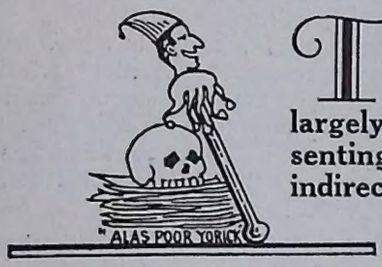
The Super-Monopoly



THE COMMITTEE of the Music Protective Association held its meeting at the King Edward Hotel, on Tuesday, November 25th. The meeting was largely attended with delegates from across Canada, representing every variety of organization which is directly or indirectly concerned with the presentation of music.

Since a report of the meeting is not open to the public, the press being excluded, the interesting comments presented at the meeting cannot be disclosed, but The Digest is at liberty to state that no medium through which music is being presented in Canada, looks with favour on the methods of the Canadian Performing Right Society in the alleged operation of its rights, nor for that matter agrees with this Society in its own interpretation of what are its rights.

Our readers are aware of The Digest's attitude in the matter of Performing Rights, demand that theatreowners take out licenses, without any specific information from the Society as to what rights it actually controls.

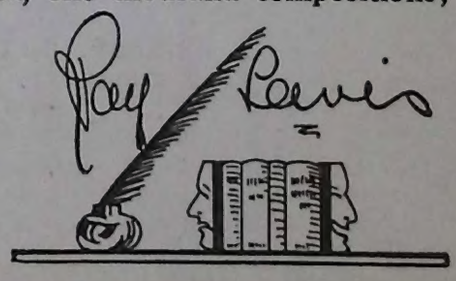
Ever since the introduction into Canada of Mr. Wodehouse and his Society, the policy of this Society has been one coupled with threats, and the use of the Law as a Mailed Fist to pound the exhibitor, Radio, Country Fairs, and other institutions of educational service into submission, a humble agreement to permit the Performing Society to pry into the private business of individuals, so as to determine just how much it can collect.

Now, this Society is desirous of having Canada revise its copyright regulations to suit its purposes. It is necessary for an assignment of copyright to be registered at Ottawa, so that the Canadian public may know in whom is the vested rights of an author's, or a composer's work. The U. S. recognize this Canadian regulation, and in order to protect the rights of its authors and composers, this Society is registering its Rights.

The Canadian Performing Right Society refuses to register the Rights it claims it controls of British works.

We can understand that such registration of works, would involve this company in a considerable expenditure, if it is true, as this company claims that it controls about 2,000,000 musical compositions. This would mean $2,000,000 for registration purposes, and incidentally $2,000,000 into the treasury of Canada!

So far this Society has registered, it is stated, one thousand compositions; and there is still unregistered the very large difference, with an added difference of opinion as to the Rights of the Performing Right Society to collect on the two million copies it is alleged it controls; and of which works it refuses to furnish a list!



Columbia Has a Winner in "Africa Speaks"

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE PUBLIC HEARING of the Government's investigation was held at the City Hall, Toronto, Court No. 5, on Wednesday, November 26th. Several persons phoned the office of The Digest submitting evidence, following the hearing, stating, that in view of the statement made by Mr. Peter White, K.C., Commissioner for the Government's investigation, that the commission was ready to receive any information relative to the investigation in progress; and that persons, or companies suffering from conditions arising from the activities of the Film Combine, would be permitted to have counsel representing them in the hearings.

The next public hearing will therefore find the public prepared to play a prominent part in the proceedings. The first hearing apparently passed off satisfactorily for the Combine interests, judging by the "smug" expression upon the countenance of certain representatives.

THE "fly in the ointment" was the announcement by the Commissioner that the investigation and inquiry might take into consideration the effect of Motion Pictures, as controlled by the Combine, on the national life of Canada. While the Commissioner was expounding upon this angle of the investigation, a worried look swept over the faces of the "self-satisfied" onlookers; and was not removed when Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis) arose to ask the Commissioner to permit her to have personal counsel represent her during the proceedings of the investigation. When questioned as to the necessity for the request, Mrs. Smith said:

"I once had occasion to bring action against the Famous Players Canadian Corp. for operating as a Combine, in restraint of trade, and I am desirous of placing this evidence at the disposal of the Commission."

COMMISSIONER WHITE stated that the Commission would be glad to have the evidence; and that the counsel of the Commission would give the questioner every assistance, but when Mrs. Smith further inquired of the Commission whether she could have her own personal counsel, the Commissioner indicated that there was no reason to prevent the granting of such a request.

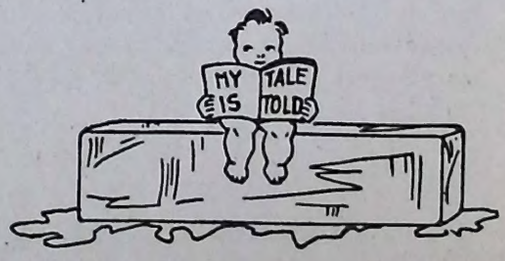
The Digest will therefore have counsel represent it personally during the process of the investigation; and Counsel will also represent the Minority Shareholders, who have been awaiting the disposition of the Government in this matter, before taking the action which these shareholders authorized their counsel to take.

WITNESSES will arrive from England, and from the United States, to give evidence, which will assist the Government in its investigation, since it has been learned that these witnesses represent organizations which made a private survey of the Film situation in Canada, prior to the absorption of Famous Players Canadian Corp., and following the protests which arose when it was found that Canada's dominant theatre chain had been absorbed by Paramount Publix!

Across the Dominion of Canada there are women's organizations banded together and determined to keep Canada's screens Canadian! The Industry of Motion Pictures has, on numerous occasions, stressed the community and national angle of Motion Pictures. Speakers representing the Industry, have on numerous occasions, stated that the Screen had a more powerful influence for propaganda and national service than the Press; and the Public, granting this, the business phase of a foreign-controlled screen, fades into insignificance in comparison to the national aspect of this foreign control.

"THERE apparently has been considerable agitation and public concern as to the source from which the exhibitors of Canada obtain their ~~names~~ pictures," Mr. White said. "It is claimed that exhibition of pictures has great influence on the ideals of the upgrowing generation. It is considered by some that greater effort should be made to exhibit in Canada British films. I am not sure that that phase has anything to do with this enquiry. It may be that as the enquiry proceeds, certain evidence may come to determine the relevancy of the question of whether there is any such thing as propaganda affecting the national life of Canada. One would hesitate to embark on an enquiry of that kind unless it is clearly within the scope of this enquiry. I leave it open to myself to determine later if that question will be a subject of enquiry."

Peter White, K.C., has sounded the big note which dominates the Government investigation. If the press of Canada was absorbed by a foreign power, the people of Canada would virtually "rise up in their righteous wrath" and demand an investigation, regardless of the rights of shareholders to sell their shares wherever they found a market.



50 CANADIAN THEATRES

have replaced their unsatisfactory Sound Equipment with NORTHERN ELECTRIC

This discarded equipment represents a capital investment *loss* of some $200,000 which should have been *earning dividends.*

All the leading Canadian theatres are equipped, or will shortly be equipped, with Northern Electric Sound System.

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Western Electric in U. S. A.

British International Pictures Limited Again Has a Winner!

The Internationally Famous Comedy Queen

Betty Balfour

In the Hilarious British Success

Raise the Roof

Enter the Doorway of Big Business by Showing Your Patrons High Class British Feature Pictures

A British International Pictures Limited Release

Distributed in Canada by Regal Films Ltd.

Show Business

(Special to Digest from Ottawa)

The revenue derived by the City of Montreal from the Amusement Tax collected from the 65 local theatres during the past fiscal year is practically the same as the total for the previous 12 months, according to the annual financial statement issued November 22. The city has received $529,894 which is half of the total amount collected locally, the other half going to the Provincial Government. The city's portion is turned over to the hospitals and charitable institutions. The total amount collected locally through the ticket tax during the previous fiscal year was just over the million mark, as compared with $1,058,519 this time. This is taken as a direct indication that local theatres are holding their own, despite general depression.

The 65 theatres in Montreal proper also paid the sum of $56,246, during the past year for theatre licenses, the fees being based on seating capacity and the scale ranging up to $1.06 per seat. On the other hand, 48 dance halls paid only $9,750 in the aggregate for annual licenses.

Without a stage show for six weeks, His Majesty's Theatre, Montreal, the only legitimate theatre in Canada's metropolis, has turned to a "season of British features," starting with "Balaclava," November 29th at $1.00 top. Although Montreal is half French, British films are drawing well.

Northern Electric has recently installed its sound system in the Majestic, Stratford; the Royal, Valleyfield; Web's Niagara Falls South, the Hudson and Crescent Palace, Toronto; also the Empire. The Northern Electric equpiment will soon be installed in the Latuque Academy, the New Glasgow Music Hall and the Lunenburg Opera House, Liverpool, England.

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

When a Winnipeg inquiry was made, Nov. 21st, of Peter White, K.C., Toronto, as to what was being done in connection with the Famous Players and other similar companies, he said:

"The Combines Investigation Act contemplates that all investigations shall be conducted in private except when otherwise ordered by the Minister of Labor. I have for some weeks been conducting private investigations principally with the affairs of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited, one of the corporations named in the order-in-council appointing me as Commissioner.

"I have made arrangements for a public hearing at Toronto on Wednesday, Nov. 26th, at which will be considered the question of all who desire to be represented by counsel and as to the future conduct of the investigation.

"As to whether there will be an investigation in Winnipeg, will depend very much on whether there is evidence to be obtained which will warrant it. This cannot be determined until inquiry has been made. Any inquiry at Winnipeg will necessarily involve the operations of the film exchanges."

FOR SALE

Pacent Disc Equipment including Amplifiers and Speakers and Simplex Projectors now in operation in the National Theatre, Toronto. Pacent Track Equipment may be added at any time at small cost. Ideal Sound Equipment for any average sized Theatre, in perfect running condition. See and hear it in operation yourself. Write NATIONAL THEATRE, 373 YONGE STREET, TORONTO, or Phone Gerrard 1305.

Where Is Your Weak Point?

Unsteady Projection and Noisy Operation?
Avail yourself of our Repair Service. Genuine Parts. Precision Workmanship. Or replace those old faithful, badly worn machines with New Projectors. We can supply you with Simplex Regular or Super, or Motiograph De Luxe.

Insufficient Illumination on the Screen?
Instal a Vocalite Glass Bead Sound Screen, perfect for both Sound and Projection;
and/or a pair of Strong Junior or Senior Reflector Arc Lamps, a truly excellent lamp;
and/or a Cont-El-Arc Motor Generator Set, obtaining the benefits of Direct Current;
and/or a pair of Ross or Superlite Projection Lenses, giving greater illumination.

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Instal a pair of Ross or Superlite Lenses, of course. You will be amazed!

Track Mask Cutting Off Picture, etc.?
Instal a pair of Proportional Apertures, getting back to Normal Screen Size.

Excessive Heat on Film, Lenses and Parts?
Instal a pair of Rear Shutters that give you as much or more light than before and cut off 60% of the present heat using a front shutter.

Several Other Things That You Cannot Put Your Finger On?
Use a Fulco Rewind Table with Argo Fireproof Film Cabinets, a Universal or a Griswold Film Splicer, Celco Flim Cement and Film Lacquer, Bio or National Carbons, or any of the hundreds of excellent articles we carry for the perfect presentation of your progamme or running your Business.

SEARCH OUT THE WEAK SPOT, THEN DROP US A LINE ABOUT IT!

"Courtesy With Service"

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Compulsory Film Arbitration Out" is the U. S. Order of Court

Round About the Studios

Grace Moore, Metropolitan opera star, as "Jenny Lind" in her first Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talkie.

Two old schooners went up in flames at the direction of John Ford for a dramatic sequence in "The Seas Beneath," Fox Movietone picture. The ships were burned off the coast of Catalina Island and the flames could be seen from the shore twenty miles distant.

The picture is nearing completion with a cast which includes George O'Brien, Marion Lessing, Lawrence Kent, Mona Maris, Warren Hymer, William Collier, Sr., Gaylord Pendleton, Nat Pendleton, John Loder and others.

If Cecil De Mille starts his next Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "The Squawman," on December 13, it will be exactly seventeen years since the time he made this same play as the first offering of the then just organized Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company.

Production began today on the fifth of the "Nick and Tony" series Louis Brock is producing for Radio Pictures. As yet untitled, the cast includes Henry Armetta and Nick Basil, featured players, supported by Ed Kennedy, Aleen Carlyle, Louise Carver, Kewpie Morgan, Bobby Hale and others. George Marshall is directing.

Tiffany announces that Bert Lytell and Warner Oland have been signed to appear in forthcoming Tiffany productions.

Lytell has been cast opposite Kay Johnson in "The Single Sin" which is in preparation. He attained much recognition for his splendid portrayels in "The Last of the Lone Wolf" and most recently in "Brothers."

Charles Gerrard has been cast for a featured part in "The Man Who Came Back." Recently completed scenes of the film depict Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell as characters widely contrasting with any they have played. They are shown as human derelicts wandering through opium dives in Shanghai. Raoul Walsh is the director of this unusual Fox Films production.

Yet another film in the growing list of British "talkie" comedies approaches completion, for this week Victor Saville will finish filming Gainsborough's talking version of "The Sport of Kings."

"Menace For Men" is the title selected by Fox Films for Seymour Felix's first directorial effort. Virginia Cherrill and John Wayne will have the leading roles.

Tiffany has closed a deal with Paramount whereby the populor Talking Chimp Comedies will play houses throughout the entire Spanish speaking world. Fox has also booked the Chimp Comedies for Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Eight of the series of twelve in the series scheduled have already been completed, the most recent being "Africa Squawks" and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room."

Genevieve Tobin has been given the featured role in "Seed," current best seller by Charles G. Norris. It is interesting, too, to know that Mr. Norris himself is adapting his novel to the screen, with some technical assistance from the Universal scenario staff. John M. Stahl will direct.

John R. Freuler, President of Big 4 Film Corporation, announces the signing of Jobyna Ralston for the feminine lead in "Sheer Luck," the initial release of a series of eight melodramas to be produced by that company. Bruce Mitchell will direct.

Laura La Plante has been signed by E. B. Derr for a featured role in Pathe's first feature face comedy, "Lonely Wives" which is scheduled for immediate production under the direction of Russell Mack, who guided Eddie Quillan in his latest vehicles, "Night Work" and "Big Money."

December releases decided upon to date by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer include the stellar attractions, "The Passion Flower," "New Moon" and "Paid."

Joan Marsh and Conchita Montenegro, pretty Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer featured players.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has acquired Frederick Hazlitt Brennan's story, "Horse Flesh," published recently in the Saturday Evening Post.

This company has also obtained sound picture rights to two story properties for which it formerly owned only silent picture rights. These are Wasserman's "The World's Illusion," considered the masterpiece of the famous German novelist, and "Destiny," the popular story by Anthony Paul Kelly.

Hobart Henley has just finished "Free Love" for Universal, and its previews in Hollywood stamp it as one of the most interesting pictures of the year. It was adapted from Sidney Howard's play, "Half Gods," and presents in its cast Genevieve Tobin, Conrad Nagel, Zasu Pitts, Monroe Owsley, and Slim Summerville, who was added at the last moment.

Here's "Our Gang" all dressed up to have their picture taken. Their latest Hal Roach comedy is "Love Business."

Get Lucky!

Every man, woman and child is interested in GOOD LUCK--that's the theme of

BIG MONEY

Another "Clicker" On the Big Hit Schedule . . .

A riotous satire of rapid-fire wise-cracking gangsters, played by a trio of star comedians who can put over comedy lines like nobody's business.

Something decidedly new in its view of a rollicking racketeer with more nerve than common sense and and a streak of luck a mile wide.

In presenting Eddie Quillan, James Gleason and Robert Armstrong in "BIG MONEY" Pathe is dealing the industry three big aces to make a Full House.

Featuring

Eddie Quillan - James Gleason - Robt. Armstrong

with

Miriam Seegar - Margaret Livingston
Robert Edeson - and a Cast of 27.
Directed by Russell Mack.

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